

A
BRIEFE REPORT OF
THE MILITARIE SERVI
ces done in the Low Count
TRIES, by the Duke of LEXOR
STER: written by one that
serued in good place
there in a letter
to a friend
of his.

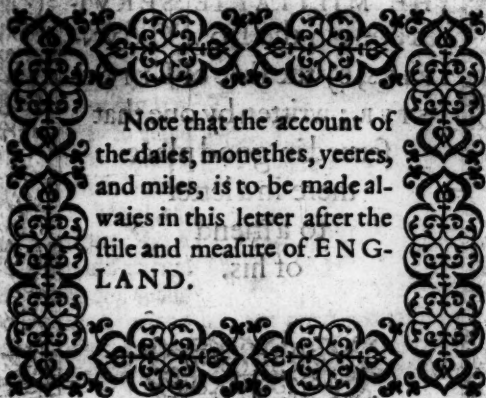
Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester

Imprinted at London, by
Arnold Hatfield, for
Gregorie Seton.

1587

Harvard College Library
Mottley Collection
July 11 1908

*Reith 2324.1**



Note that the account of
the daies, monethes, yeeres,
and miles, is to be made al-
waies in this letter after the
stile and measure of ENG-
LAND.

vd. nobis in bonis
tot. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 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2184. 2185. 2186. 2187. 2188. 2189. 2190. 2191. 2192. 2193. 2194. 2195. 2196. 2197. 2198. 2199. 2200. 2201.

W
TO THE RIGHT
WORSHIPFULL

MY ESPECIALL GOOD

FRIENDE SIR

L. A. KNIGHT.



I K, to satisfie your of-
ten earnest requestes,
I haue taken time
these holydaies to let
you downe a brieſe re-
porte of the military
ſeruices done in the
lowe Countries, by the
Earle of LEICES-
TER, and his armies,
during the tyme of his
abode and gouernment
there: reckening from the 22. day of January 1585.
on which day he was receiued Gouernour of thoſe Coun-
tries; till the 23. of Nouember 1586. when he embar-
ked at VLYSHING, in his returne for ENGLAND.
I entermeddle not with the eſtate of Religion, inſite, or
ciuill policie, becauſe your letters demaund it not, and I
willingly deale not further in reportes, then is by ſome
kinde of dutie required of me. You expect not I hope but
the ſubſtance of things done with brieuitie: the circum-
ſtances, I know, and particularities, will require a rea-
ſonable volume. Of one thing I muſt entreate you to be
eſpecially excuſed. I will not meddle with the particular
ſeruices of private men: becauſe if I ſhould rehearſe them
all, and ſpeake of them as indeede they haue deſerued, it
were aboue my ſkill, and I ſhould be longer then my lei-
ſure ſuffreth. And if I ſhould touch ſome, and conceale
others, the laſt offence would hardly be endured. For
truth

A report of the seruice

truth of the things I write you of, this be assured: what I write as done of our partie, either I saue, and am witness of it my selfe, or I haue it by the credible report of those that were the doers. What I set downe of the enemies doings, I either take it from their owne intercepted letters, or I do it vpon the aduertisements of our best intelligencers: who in circumstances may erre, but swarne not much from truth, I thinke, in any materiall point: howsoeuer it is, I trust you will be perswaded, that I willingly speake no vntruth: And then as I conceiue of these things, if so it please you to accept of them, they haue bene done, as I take them, in maner as followeth.

After long and humble suite of the Estates generall of the vniited Provinces of the lowe Countries, it pleased the Daénies Statesse our Soueraigne to graunt vnto them a large and bountifull aide of men & money, in such sort, and vpon such Articles and conditions, as in the treatie concluded betwene them, bearing date the fourth day of September, in the yere 1585. it moze at large appereth. To speake of the magnanimitie, wisdom, bonnetie, and singular goodnesse of hir Statesse in yelding so great and chargeable a succour: with consideration against whom, vpon how necessarie and most vrgent causes, and for how greuouslie oppzessed a people and countries, it was intended, were a matter beside my purpose at this time, and aboue the reach of my pen and skill. The fact is, and will be approued, and renowned in the world, so long as the memorie of wise and good Princes, and of true princely actions shal endure. But in the Treatie named, there is one Article amongst others, where by it is especially required, That it might please her Statesse to sende with her forces into those partes, a personage of nobilitie, valure and wisdom, of the English Nobilitie, as well to gouerne her people, as also to direct and to deale otherwise, and to ble such further préminence

in the lowe Countries.

preeminence and authoritie, as is specified in the Treatie. The man for this purpose most desired of the Estates, and especially chosen by her Highnesse, was the Earle of Leicester, who being accordingly appointed for this service, after his commission received, and being taken of such as were then to go with him, leaving whatsoever the singular blessings of God most happily many waies, and the especial favour of a mightie Prince had of long time yielded him in his owne Countrie; took leave at the Courte, and departed towarde *Harwich in Essex*, there to imbarque in the beginning of December following. There accompanied him in this voyage, the Earle of Essex, the Lord Audley, the Lord North, with divers Knights, and manie Esquiers and Gentlemen, to the number of sixe or seaven hundred horse, bravely and souldiourlike appointed, all voluntaries and of his owne friendes, followers, & servants. He departed from *Harwich* with the most part of his traine the ninth day of December, and on the tenth of the same arrived at *Washing in Zealand*, where, & at *Middleborough* he was received with great concourse and ioye, and after two daies staid there by sundrie tournies came to the *Hage in Holland*. Here after many daies treatie: upon the 22. daie of January 1585. he received the gouvernement of those Countreies, with title of Gouvernour and Capitaine Generall of *Holland, Zealand, and of the united Provinces*, and of their associates. The united Provinces, and their associates were then accounted the Duchie of Gelders, with the Countie of *Zurphen, Holland, Zealand, Virrich*, and the countreies adjoining of *Friseland*, betwixne the river of *Emse* and *Lauers*, *Flamider*, also and *Brabant*, for the townes of those countreies, that then helde with the other united Provinces. And the estate of them all was then this. In *Holland, Zealand, and Virrich* the enimie had clearly nothing: in *Friseland* also nothing, saving that the citie of *Gronningen* and that part of the countrie called *Omelander*: were wholie

A report of the service

inholie his: in *Gelderland* and *Zutphen* he had a good part: in *Brabant* the Estates had but *Bergen apzome*, *Saint Ghertrudeberg*, *Huesden*, *Grave*, and *Waver* castle, with the *forte* of *Lillo*: in *Flanders* they had *Sluice*, and *Ostend*, and the *fortes* of *Tornese*, the *Dole*, *Lykenshoocke*, and *Saint Antonies booke*: all the rest were the enemies, together with all the other of the seauentiene *Prouinces*, except the whole almost of the countrie of *Ouerissell*, which in a kinde of newestrallitie, seemed to fauor the Estates party, and rather to incline to them: but indeed did greatly aide the enimie with victuals and prouisions, and had manie secreete intelligences with him.

These *Prouinces*, their estate, and the people of them did the E. of *Leicester* at this his first arrivall, and acceptance of the gouernment find in great confusion: The common people without obedience, The soldier in miserie and disorder for want of pay, The *Gouernors* weary, & tired, for lacke of god assistance, and due obedience, The *Prouinces* themselves staggering in their vnion, & every *Towne* next danger readie to seke newe meanes for their safetie: such was their feare of the enimie triumphant nowe with continuall victozies, and especially with the late recoverie of *Anwarpe*: so little was their hope of their owne abilitie to resist, and so many were the enemies deepe and secret practises, euen in the verie bowels of them.

The estate duly considered, and such remedies to euerie member aptly applied, as the present time would then permit: the ciuill gouernment being first in some good sort well settled, the Earle applied himselfe forthwith to the militarie service, the first occasion being offered for the reliefe of *Grave*.

Grave is a *Towne* in *Brabant*, belonging to *Count Maurice* of *Nassau*, seconde sonne to *William Prince* of *Orange* deceased. But it was then in the gouernment of *Count Philip* of *Hohenloe* or *Hollocke* a *Germane*, who

in the lowe Countries.

had long served the Estates, and had placed gouvernour in this Towne Mounſieur Hemart, a Baron of these lowe Countries with garrison of about eight hundred Dutch and Netherlande souldiours. The Towne is not great, but fortified of late, and made verie strong by the Prince of Orange, whose patrimonie it was. It is of some importance, because standing upon the river of *Mase*, it hindereth the free passage of that part of the river nere it. Otherwise for trade, territozie, wealth, or any other commoditie, it is not to be much accounted of. Alexander Farnese, Prince of Parma, governour then for the king of Spaine in *Brabant*, *Flanders*, and those parts of the lowe Countries that acknowledge the king of Spaine, had sent the Count Charles Maunſfelt, to beleaguere this Towne, and to besiege it somewhat a far off, which he accordingly did, by erecting rounde about it foure fortes, with fiftene hundred souldiours in them, and having nere him within one english mile all the spanish Regiments, to the number of five thousand footemen. He had now lien there from December till about the beginning of March: at which time the C. of Leicester understanding the Towne was brought into distress for lacke of men, victuals, and other provisions, minding to relieue it, and for the readie answering of all incident occasions to be moze nere it, departed from the *Hage* by *Harlem*, and *Amſterdam*, to *Viricht*. From thence he presently sent his horsemen being in number about thirtene or fourtene hundred, to encampe at *Nykercke* in the prouince of *Felore* in *Gelderland*: aswell to unburden the Townes of them, as also by their lying there to deteine the enemies forces of those partes from *Graue*. He appointed to Count Hollock, and S. Iohn Norris Colonell generall of the English infantry, about two thousand footemen, without horsemen, because the place was not for them, with direction to victuall

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tuall and to supplie and furnish *Grane*, with all necessaries. These Gentlemen marching with their troupes, toke first by assault a little fort of the enimies about foure miles from *Grane*, called the *Mill forte*, and then meaning to fortifie themselves as neere the *Tolone* as they might, and from their fortification to take such order as occasion should minister, for atchieuing their intent began to intrench vpon the banke of the *Mase* on *Gelderland* side, about two english miles from *Grane*, betweene it and *Battenbourge* castle, and within halfe a mile or thereabouts of the enimies bridge, and fortes on that side. They began their worke with about thre hundred soldours, and some pponers on Tuesday at night in Easter weeke the 5. of April, and in the morning had raised it a yarde high, when the enimie hauing had intelligence of their meaning, sendeth to hinder the same thre thousand Spaniards: who after two or thre attempts put our men being but few from their worke, and caused them to retire. But other of our troupes to the number of eight or nine hundred, presently meeting them, our men made stande againe, gaue a fresh charge vpon the Spaniards, drane them ouer the fortification, where they fought besoze, enen to their owne forte, slaying on the ground five hundred of them all Spaniards: amongst whom seauen speciall captaines, and two others of greater account, and wounded about two hundred which were caried to *Bolake*, & other places. They toke also one peece of the enimies ordnance, brought to beate our boates and fortification. Of our men five or seauen soze were slaine, but not one man of name. Sir Iohn Norris was hurt in the breast with a pike: sir Iohn Boroughes had a finger broken off with a musket shot. After this fight, the Count *Hollocke* battered and toke *Battenbourge* castle, and the forte de *Guauden*, and the strong house of *Empell*; and then his victual being come he victualed *Grane* by water twise,

went

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went himseffe into it, supplied the garrison with men, and left it furnished with all provisions sufficient by acknowledgement of Hemart the capitaine himseffe for nine monethes. And having done that he came for, in the very view and face of the enimie, he dissolved his campe, and came away with great honor.

A little before this time fell out the surprize of *Wearle* a great Towne in *Westfalia* by colonell *Skenck*, and afterwards a sharpe fight by the same *Skenck*, with three or foure thousande of that countrie, where he slew and overthrew above two thousand with great valure, and brought away rich spoiles: but being in the diocesse of *Colloigne*, and without the iurisdiction of the United *Provinces*, and not directly against their chiefe enimie. I will enlarge no further of these exploits.

The prince of *Parma* (as it was reported to be) was much kindled with this overthrow at *Grane*, with the taking of the castles and victualing of the Towne: and his former winter preparations being nowe in readines, about the beginning of *Maie* he began to march towards *Grane*, but so, as that he was first assured by Count *Maunsfelde* (as by our intelligences & letters intercepted it appeared) that the match for the towne was fully concluded before he would set out to it. Thither he came with his campe nowe of twelve thousand footmen, and about foure thousande horse. He battered the Towne for the, and upon batterie, had it presently yielded without assault. The C. of *Leycester* hearing of the princes preparations towards *Grane*, being as yet unreadie and destitute of all meanes to furnish a campe sufficient to meete with him on equall ground in fiede, yet to the entent to be nere at hand with the forces he had, and to waite such advantages as occasion might offer, with a small campe of about three thousand foote, and one thousande horse, he passed in person the river of *Rhyne* at *Arnhem* in *Gelderland*,

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land, into the province of *Bettow*, with intent from thence to passe the river of *Wale* also, and so to approach to *Graue* it selfe.

The *Bettow* is a province in *Gelderland*, lying betwixt the rivers of *Rhine* and *Wale*, verie fertile, and then wholly helde by the enimie, or at least infested by him, with his fortres of *Luyresfort*, and *Bereksboose* and the two castles of *Alou* and *Bemell*. It was first thought expedient to win these fortres and castles before further passage: but they were verie strong, well manned, and sufficiently provided of all necessaries. The great citie of *Newmegen* was but over the *Wale* on the other side very nere them, and the enimie with his campe at *Graue*, not eight english miles from them. These good helpes so nere, encouraged greatly the souldiours within, who with all warlike skill omitted nothing that might be required in souldiours for defence. But the resolution was to attempt them, which was done with such valure of our souldiours, his Excellencie himselfe ordering the batteries at some of them, and without respect of travel or danger, putting his owne hand to the trenches, and other woorkes to be made for the approaches, as at length at severall times they were all yielded.

Another thing of god importaunce was then to be done also. A little above the *Toulehuys* in *Cleveland* is a small Islande in the river of *Rhine*, in place where the *Rhine* dividing himselfe, taketh the right hande course downe to *Arnhem*, and retaineth still the name of *Rhine*, and on the left hand passeth to *Newmegen*, and is in Latin called *Vahalis*, in vulgar Dutch the *Wale*. The Islande is called *Grauenswert*, and being fortified might commande both the rivers of *Rhine* and *Wale* from that place downward, that nothing coulde passe to *Arnhem* or *Newmegen*. It was thought verie important to surprize this Islande, and to builde a forte in it: but the matter required celeritie,

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tie, secrecie, and good strength of men; because the enimie was nere. It was committed to be done to Sir Martin Skenck, (he was now knighted before at *Wrich*, and had given him by his Excellencie, at his receiving of knight-hood a chaine of golde of a thousand crownes) Sir Martin whiles his Excellencie was occupied in winning the forts and castles, took the Island, built the forte, and having left it defensible and well manned, returned againe to his Excellencie: who having nowe gotten the forts and castles, and so cleared the whole pounce of *Rotterdam*, and left not one enimie in it, thought fit to proceede in his principall intent of driving nere the enimie at *Grave*. He had first to passe the river of *Wale*, & then to marche eight english miles in the enimies countries, to the *Mase* & *Grave*, where the prince & his campe lay. As he began to provide his passage over the *Wale* the newes were suddenly brought him that *Grave* was yielded. This seemed so strange that it was not at the first believed, as well because it was knowne to be of great strength, and victualled, and thoroughly provided of all necessaries for nine monethes, as also and more specially for that his Excellencie had received two letters from Baron Hemart, captaine of *Grave*, the one the daie before, the other the same day: wherein Hemart wished his Excellencie to do what else he thought convenient, and to have no care of *Grave*, so; he was well able to defend it against all men; for one halfe yeare. These letters were sent to the Q. Maestie: but in the ende the newes were found true. The Town was yielded; and his Excellencie bethinking him what was fit to be done, and seeing his army nothing equall to the enimies, the numbers being so far different, as is before rehearsed: understanding also that almost all the Townes nere about, as *Bomell*, *Arnhem*, *Amersfort*, *Demeter*, and the rest of *Guelders* and *Ouvrissell* were in tickle fearmes likely to yeelde if the enimie came nere them:

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them: and finding indeede that the prince had already sent part of his armie towards *Bomelverie*: he sent forth, with strong garrisons into the next frontire *Totones*, and *Bomell* being thought to be then in some danger, himselfe went thither, with fiftene hundred footemen, and five hundred horse, where he assured that *Totone*, and the Island being of great importance, and toke such order for the rest as that time and the small meanes he then had would permit. He made for his sodaine yielding of *Grane* without good cause, being sufficiently furnished of all necessaries for defence and contrarie to assurance of it, given by his owne letters but the same day, and the day before, comming to *Bomell* was there apprehended and caried to *Kiriche*: his processe was, and in solemne assemblie by *Co. Hollock* himselfe and all the rest of the Captains and partiall officers, of the Dutch, English, and diuers other nations aduised to die, and was publicly executed accordingly, with two others of his captaines. I will not speak of what difficultie the matter was thought to be this execution: the party being a baron, of a *Batona* living, & great by birth and alliance in those parts: his Excellencie, a stranger in the State in those termes: and the example there leant scene before. But the fact fell out so plaine, that his Excellencie would not be intreated but that iustice should proceede: the iudges could not but condemne him, and the people thought so: yet for the want yet much reioiced to see the iustice done. Amongest diuers others now sent to strengthen the garrisons in sundrye places, *Mr Martin Skenck*, and *Mr Roger Williams* were appointed with certaine horse & footmen, to see if they might enter *Penloe*, whether it was thought the entrance would make his next journey. *Penloe* is a *Totone* of the Dutchie of *Gelders*, situate vpon the river of *Mase*, leauen or eight english miles from *Grane*, & then in the gouernment of *Mr Martin Skenck*,

in the lowe Countries.

Skenck, who had garrison in it of seaven hundred dutch souldiours : but himselfe was absent, and attempting to get into it went as I saie with Sir Roger Williams, and about a hundred horse, But they founde themselves preuented, and all the passages taken by the enimie. But yet minding to assay if with their horsemen they might possiblie breake through the gardes, they gave in the night a sodaine most valiaunt attempt, vpon the whole campe, and thus manie enimie nere to the princes owne lodging. But directing themselves towardes the Colone, and finding the turnpikes shut, and garded with strong watch of Musqueteires, and the campe now all vp in armes, and the day drawing on : they turned their course towards *Wachrendoncke*, a Colone of the Estates, seauen or eight miles off, where themselves and manie of their companie entred, and saved themselves from the whole caualinarie of the enimie, now pursuing them, some thirtie or fortie of their company were slaine, and taken. The prince then planted thowtore his siege of *Penloo*, which the colones men in short space yielded to him, whiles the souldiours stood at defence of the walles. While these things were thus in doing in those partes the L. Willoughbie Governour of *Berghe apzome* in *Brabant*, hauing intelligence of a great Conuoy of victuall, and of ther provisions to be brought out of the further partes of *Brabant*, next *Cleueland*, and *Dukeland*, into *Antwerpe* : and hauing good aduertisement of the time of their coming, vpon the 23. of Maie, he met with them in their waie about eight or ten english miles from *Antwerpe* himself had with him thre companies of horse, and thre companies of foote : the conuoy was foure hundred wagons, and garded with souldiours, and of the countrie people, to the number of a thousande. He set vpon them, and put to flight all the people, burnt and spoiled almost all the wagons, and provisions, and some mares, wagons, and such

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such other things as he thought fit he brought away with him to *Berghes*.

The C. of *Leycester* in the meane time hauing placed strong garrisons in al his frontiers, began to employ himselfe wholie to the gathering of a sufficient armie to maite with the prince in fiede: sotesmen in good numbers were gotten out of *Englande*, with some from *Scotland*: two thousande *Germaine* hoiles were appointed to be brought by Count *Mewres*, with a regiment of *Almaine* sotesmen, and a thousand pponers. But that the forces now readie mought be doing, whiles the others to make up the full armie were in providing, his Excellencie sent into *Flanders*, vnder the conduction of Count *Mourice* of *Nassau*, and of his nephew sir *Phillip Sidney*, about two thousand sotesmen, which with great secretie and balure surprised the *Tolune* of *Axell*, with foure strong fortres nere about it, slue and put to flight foure bandes of sotesmen in the *Tolune*, had rich spoyle, brought away foue ensignes of the enimies, left coronell *Pyron*, with eight or nine hundred souldiours in garrise, and came their way, to the intent to attempt *Graveling* in *Flanders*, which by a deceitfull fraine laide for him by *La Mote*, was promised to sir *Phillip Sidney*, who came thither, but finding the fraude, returned with the losse of about thirtie common souldiours. Those of *Axell* had by this time cut the dikes, and by letting in the sea, dyotoned the countrie to the waile of *Axell*, and *Hulst*, and thereby added great strength to *Axell*.

Shortly after this, the Count *Hollock*, and sir *William Pellham*, R. Marshall of the fiede, made a roade into *Brabant*, where hauing wasted and spoiled *Lange Strate*, and a great part of the countrey, they returned without bearing of any enimie to resist them.

The prince after the yelding of *Venloe* marched to *Nuyse*, a *Tolune* of the diocesse of *Colloigne*, helde for the elector,

in the lowe Countries. A

elector Truces, by a valiant young gentleman, called Clowte. After some skirmishes, and a little batterie, and Clowte wounded, this Towne was lost, by the cowardlines of Clowtes soldiers, and Clowte taken out of his chamber wounded, and hanged out at the windowe with some note of unsoldierlike blage.

From thence came the prince to Bercke, wherein were sir Martin Skenck and coronell Morgan, with twelve hundred English, and seaven or eight hundred of her soldiers. This Towne is also of the diocesse of *Colloigne*, and held for the elector Truces. And though being without the limits of his Excellencies iurisdiction, it may seeme it appertained not to his charge, as in like sort *Nuyse* also: yet for the importance of the place to the United Provinces standing upon the river of the *Rhine*, and for the communistr, and more conjunction and dependence of both causes one on the other, yz. of the elector Truces, and of the Estates of the United Provinces, it was thought expedient that the Towne should be defended with common aide, and therefore such garrison before rehearsed was put into it. The Towne at the beginning when this garrison came in about the time of the loss of *Venlo* was very weake, and through a contention for it betwaine the Prince elector Truces and *Adolphe* Count of *Meur*, unprouided almost of all necessaries. But his Excellencie having a little before quieted the strife betwaine those two, it was now somewhat supplied of provisions by the Estates, and repaired by the industrie and trauell of Sir Martin and his soldiers. The siege began in the end of July, and was continued on without great effect, partly through the valure of the capitaine and soldier within it, who made piers sallies, and often intercepted, and slew sundrie of the enemies soldiers: but especially by reason of the many continuall aduertisements brought daily to the Princes campe of a

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great armie of his Excellencies now gathered and in readines to march. And indeed about this time had the Earle of Leicester collected his forces, and prepared his provisions, and about the 14. of August, sent Sir John Norris, & Sir Thomas Cecill with the vanguard to passe the river *Yssel* on his bridge of boates, at the foot of *Ysselort* a mile above *Arnhem*, with direction to encamp 6, or 7. miles into *Cleueland*, at a place called *S. Senenter* upon the bankes of the *Rhine*. On the 17. of August was sent thither to him Sir William Pelham *L.* Parthall of the armie with another troupe, and on the 19. his Excellencie departed from *Utricht* to *Rhenen*, and so to *Arnhem*, where he staid till the troupes of *Brabant* and *Zealand* with *Co. Hollock*, and those of *Friseland* with Count William of *Nassau* met him there. And when they were all come together, on saturday the xxvj. of August he departed from *Arnhem*, accompanied with the Prince of Portugall Don Emannuell, the Prince elector of *Colloigne* Trufles, *Co. Maurice* of *Nassau*, *Co. Hollock*, *Co. William* of *Nassau*, Earle of *Essex* generall of the English horsemen, Count Phillip of *Nassau*, Count *Solmes*, Count *Ouerkeyne*, *L. Willoughbie*, *L. North*, *S. Phillip Sidney*, and diuers others, noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, and with the rest of the armie marched that night to *Ehen* in *Cleueland*. At *Ehen* his Excellencie thought expedient himselfe to take view of his armie, which he did on sunday the 28. of August, and finding the bands of English and Irish not to fill the number of five thousand footemen: the rest of all nations not to make 2000. the Cavallerie of all sorts not to exceed the number of 1400. knowing the enemies to be 12000. strong on foot, and 3500. horse, experienced soldiers, he fell into consultation what were fittest to be done. To releue *Berck* was the principall intent, or at least to get the soldiers safe and honorably out of it. This was to be effected by one of two means.

Either

in the lowe Countries.

Either by assailing or diverting the enimie. The first was full of difficulties. The enimie was strong, he was in his place of strength, he had his retreats at hand. Our campe was fetter in number, we should come a long march into a strange place, we had no retreat within twenty miles. And which take away all deliberation: our victuals insufficient, either for maintenance of the armie, or for reliefe of the towne, must needs have failed us. Diversions therefore was thought to be the way, and that to be done by the siege of some place that might force the enimie to arise to succour it. And that place was reckoned fittest, to be *Duisbourg*. *Duisbourg* is a towne of the Countie of *Zutphen*, situate at the confluence of the river called old *Issell*, with that piece of the *Rhine*, that separating himselfe from the bodie of the *Rhine* a little east of *Arnhem*, was anciently called *Fossa Drusiana*, as a ditch cut and made by *Drusus* from the *Rhine* into *Issell*. The Towne was also called *Drusii burgum*. It was and is now the chamber of the Countie of *Zutphen*: well peopled and reasonably rich, walled round with a high and strong wall, and watered of good depth and breadth round, and in the greatest part double: so that in the opinion of soldiers it was thought of good strength.

This Towne besides that being of importance, it was like to draw the enimie from *Berke* to succour it, it was perilous also for our armie to be left forgotten behind us, for that lieng almost in the way of our passage betwene *Arnhem* and the campe, we must have bene constrained, if we had proceeded to *Berke* to have left good forces for the assurance of that passage. There was in it captain *Samphon*, a valiant old soldier, a *Wallon*, with 300. soldiers, and about 500. *Burgers* that bare armes. The resolution being taken for the siege of this Towne, the armie not knowing but they should passe on to *Berke*: upon the sodaine his Excellencie appointed Count *Hol-*

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Locke with the Erie of Essex, Sir Phillip Sidney and
 others; With eleven or 800, 900, and 1000, horse to
 march by night; and taking the passages of the towne to
 begin the siege by the breake of the day on Tuesday the
 30. of August. His Excellencie with the whole armie
 that day followed marching backe thither from Elsin in an
 order worth the noting, for that the bands extended to
 the uttermost made show of fourteen or fifteene thousand,
 whereas indeed horse and foot both were not complete
 eight thousand; Weaine earlie that afternoon to Dins-
 doug, and himselfe in person within an hour shot
 tooke the tower of the Walls on the east side, and that night
 set pponers and soldiers to intrenching within halfe ar-
 cabuz shot. Our resistance was not yett come. The next
 night his Excellencie understanding that our pponers
 had left their worke at the trenches; himselfe betwene
 eleven and twelve of the clocke at night, went with
 Sir William Pelham and some few of his garde to see what
 was doing, and being within threescore yeardes of the
 Welons ditch, both going together, a musket shot from
 the wall strooke Sir William Pelham most dangerously in
 the bellie, but pierced not his entrailles, so that he escaped
 death, and was abroade againe within two daies. The
 next day came our ordnance, and the morning after it
 was planted. Then had we also news that the prince of
 Parma, being certified of our sitting downe here, would
 be with us within foure daies. Whereupon the former
 opinion of his Excellencie for the leuie of the princes
 campe by this direction was fully confirmed. The orde-
 nance being ten pieces planted on Friday the second of
 September, from the breake of day till two in the after-
 none, his Excellencie being continually hard by them in
 the trenches, and had made two breaches reasonable af-
 faultable, but yet so filled up againe by those within, with
 logs, earth, bedding, and such other trash, that the assault

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was difficult, especially a water of a yarde and more deepe and threescore fote broad being betwene the assaiors and the wall. But such was the courage of our men of all nations, that without further batterie, they extorted with great importunitie from his Excellencie being in the trenches, a resolution for a present assault. And the contention being great betwene the leaders to whom the honour of the assault shoulde be given, it was ordered by his Excellencie that Count Hollocke with the Dutch and Scots: Sir John Norris with the English and Irish, should each attempt one breach. They forthwith ordered their Squadrons accordingly, with so generall courage and ioy, as was marvellous to behold, and did indeede daunt the enimie more (as themselves afterwarde confessed) than any thing else that was done. Great also and many and most earnest were the particular suites of priuate noble men, and gentlemen, for leane to go to the assault: which his Excellencie would grant to verie few of them. The Squadrons standing at the water side ready to passe to the assault, the enimies within hearing hitherto valiantly and soldierlike carried themselves, and now laboring to repaire the breaches, and standing in armes to receiue vs, yet seeing presently before their eies their owne imminent danger, & especially moued with the resolution of our people, they offered first an accord vpon conditions, which his Excellencie refused, and there vpon they yielded simple, with grant of life to the common soldier onely. Which being accepted, the towne was rendred, and sir John Boroughtes and sir William Stanley appointed to the garde of it, till further order. This Exploitte being happily atchined without losse, vpon aduise it was resolved to stay there a while, aswell to take order for the safe keeping of the towne, as also to abide there the princes coming with his campe, if he had meaning to siege vs: and especially for that neither

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victuals

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victuals nor furniture for our ordinance were then come
 sufficient for any further present attempt. There were
 two or three english miles from *Duisborough* somewhat to-
 wards *Zurphen*, a castle called *Voerden*, & a strong place, cal-
 led *Hackfoud* house, held by the enemy, which greatly an-
 noyed those parts. It was thought expedient in the meane
 time to take in these castle & house, for which cause certain
 companies were sent thither. They answered at the first
 stoutly. But afterwards being made beleene the cannon
 was at hand they yielded. Our newes came often to *Duis-
 borough*, that the prince with his campe was risen from
Berck: That he had laide his bridge ouer the *Rhine* with
 intent to passe towarde vs: and indeede he was whyles
 we lay there, passed with his armie, and, as we learned,
 minded to haue assaied the succouring of *Duisbourg*, if it
 had not bene taken sooner then he expected. But hearing
 it was gone, and vnderstanding that our campe laie (as
 indeed it did) verie strongly, he staied on this side the
Rhine nere *Weesell*, about thirtie english miles from vs,
 with intent to returne, and to proceed in the siege of *Berck*
 as we were verie credibly enformed. The C. of *Leyce-
 ster* hauing now set full order in the towne, his prouisi-
 ons being come, and finding that the prince made no
 haste towarde him in that place, though he might haue
 seemed to haue attained his principall intent, in raising
 the siege of *Berck*, with some ouerplus of aduantage in
 getting *Duisbourg*, yet to vaine the prince further away
 from *Berck* that it might be wholie releued, as also for
 diuers other good reasons, he resolved to depart thence to-
 wards *Zurphen*, and accordingly on the thirtene of Sep-
 tember, marched thither with his whole campe, and
 there sat doونه, about an english mile from the towne,
 on the riuer side next *Zurphen*, and the princes campe.

Zurphen is the chiefe towne of the Countie of *Zut-
 phen*, situate on the east banke of the riuer *Iffell*, about
 equall

in the lowe Countries.

equall distance of sixe or seauen english miles from *Duis-
bourg* on the south, and from *Deuenter* on the northeast
quarter. It is of it selfe strong: but important in this only,
that it hindzeth the free passage of the *Yssel* in the places
nere about it. But on the north west side of the riuer
right ouer against *Zurphen*, and within musket shot of
the Towne in the prouince of the *Velluwe*, in the Duchie
of *Gelders*, were two forts, called the forts of *Zurphen*, such
of importance, as they spoiled the whole prouince of the
Velluwe, and made the countrie yield them large contribu-
tions enen from the ports of *Viriche*, *Amsterdam*, and
Leiden in *Holland*, being 50. miles frō them. For strength
they were accounted impregnable, and might be supplied
from the Towne by great passagde boates with al neces-
saries. The Estates campe two yeres befoze had lien at
them ten moneths, with eleuen thousand footemen, and
3000. horse, and departed with losse without them. *Taxis*
a soldier of account with the enimie, lieutenant to *Coz-
nell Verdugo* gouernour of *Friseland* for the king of
Spainie, commanded in the towne and forts. After aduise
taken, vpon good view of the place, it was resolved, that
the forts as of moze importance for vs, and not the towne,
should be besieged. Our brydge of boates was appointed to
be laid ouer the riuer about an English mile from the
Towne, and the campe to be placed on both sides the
water: that the prince if he came and thought fit, mought
see that we would giue him the opportunitie to attempt
vs. *Myder* being taken for these things, whiles they were
in doing: his Excellencie vnderstanding the tickle estate
of *Deuenter*, thought fit himselfe in person to go thither,
leaving straight charge to be speedily aduertised, if at the
campe they should vnderstand any thing of the Princes
mouing.

Deuenter is the chiefe citie of the prouince of *Ouerissell*.
One of the Hauuse townes, large, strong, rich, and direc-
ting

A report of the seruice i

sing in deede *Shoule* and *Campen*, and the rest of the cities
 and towne of that countrie, which in a manner depended
 wholly vpon it. It is seated vpon the north east bank of the
 river *Wesell*. It then stode in a kinde of newtrall termes
 inclining moze in shew to the Estates party, but yielding
 no contributions to the war, and indeed aiding the enemy
 with victuals and provisions, and some of the towne ha-
 uing secret and strict intelligences with him. What was
 the cause of his Excellencies to speedie repaire thither: the
 case being taken to be such, as that who had come first of
 the prince or him with forces, should haue bene received.
 And indeede the prince as we after vnderstood, hastened al
 he could thither. But his Excellencie was first entred,
 and with him about foure hundred footemen, and two or
 thre cornets of horse, and no moe at this time. He dealt
 in courteous and gentle sort with the towne smen, and
 they likewise vsed him and his well: but yet so, as they
 woulde not lodge as in garrison anie of those he brought
 with him. He had not bene there full two daies, when
 certaine aduertisement came to him from the camp, that
 the prince with his whole armie was risen from about
Weesell, and come to *Burckloe*, a towne of the territozie of
Munster, about eight english miles from our campe.
 Wherevpon his Excellencie departed presently with his
 owne traine to the campe, leaving the foure hundred
 footemen, and two cornets of horse in *Deuenter*, and fin-
 ding in the camp the trenches vpon *Zuyphen* side not fully
 finished, he commanded all diligence to be vsed therein, so as
 in one day they were sufficiently made up, & wel furnis-
 hed with soldiers, and al necessaries ready for defense. The
 next night the prince came to *Zuyphen*, with 1500. horse,
 and the morning after departed, leaving part of his horse
 men there, and returned to his campe at *Burckloe*, where
 while he staid prouiding victuals as we vnderstode for
Zuyphen, and the forts, our men spent the time in interre-
 ching

in the lowe Countries.

thing and consulting about that two states before, as also
 upon the toyme she happened diuers light skirmishes al-
 most euery day, till upon the 21. of September in the eue-
 ning his excellencie hauing intelligence that the Prince
 should the next morning send a company of viduals into
Zurpho, sent out good scouts that night, and came after
 to sir John Norris to draine out sir William Stanleyes
 and some other bands of footemen, and appointed some
 horsemen withall to encounter the conuoy in the way be-
 twix the enemies campe and *Zurpho*. In the morning
 the 22. of September fell a great and thicke mist, that
 you might hardly discern a man ten paces of, at the dray-
 ing by whereof the enemies appeared to nere our com-
 panies, hauing planted all their muskets and arcabuzes
 being 1000, and their pikes being a thousande, being
 strongly on the high way as our men, specially the nobler
 men and gentlemen, as the Erie of Essex, the Lord Wil-
 loughbie, sir Phillip Sidney, sir William Russell, sir John
 Norris, and the rest, in number seuen or eight thousand, who
 were in troupe together in the face of the enemy before
 our footemen receiued the whole bolle of the enemies
 shot, and passing the very furie of it, gave charge vpon
 the two foremost troopes of the enemies horsemen, and
 drane them backe ouer their owne trenches, and with in
 their pikes at two severall times, in such sort, as Count
 Hanniball Gonzaga a man for nobilitie and feature of
 speciall account amongst them, was there slaine, and ma-
 ny others with him. Captaine George Creshe an Albo-
 nese of singular valure and skill, was taken prisoner, and
 two of their cornets brought away. We lost about thir-
 tie, one and other, slaine, and dying after of hurts, but not
 any of name, save onely sir Phillip Sidney, who first ha-
 ving one horse shot vnder him, and mounted vpon a se-
 cond was shot with a musket in the left thigh, but came
 home on his horse, and died the 25. day after. His Excel-
 lencie

A report of the service

Which having bene in the field giving over from the beginning, and now receiving the newes of this good success, was somewhat of opinion to have brought downe the whole campe, and to have set upon the enimie with all our forces. But upon better consideration by advice of all the chiefe officers of the field, we being not past 2000. horse, & 16. or 17. hundred footmen, that might presently come to fight, the rest being imployed at the forts, and in other necessarie services at that time: the enimie being three thousand footmen strong in place, and 12. or 14. hundred horse; and we doubting least his whole armie had bene there; which it might well have bene, being the night before but five miles off, it was resolved that our troups should stay, and not to commit the whole to the fortune of that day. So this hot skirmish ended, our men content with their victorie returning, and the enimie marching quietly away.

After this fight we heard no more of the Prince in 10. or 12. daies. But our certaine intelligences gave us, that he was gone to meete with our Keyters and Almshouses, (now thought to be ready to march,) with intent to stay them either by stopping their passage, or by fight, or otherwise, as also to provide more vituals, powder, and shot for Zuphen. His Excellencie still applied his principall purposes in besieging the forts. There is a piece of ground on the side of the river that Zuphen is, and within fiftie yards of the towne, called the Island, but it is vnto the towne. The taking of it was accounted of great importance for the winning of the forts, but full of danger, lying so nere the towne, and the enimie having a house first fortified and manned with thirtie men. His Excellencie was sundrie times promised the surprising of this Island by some, but performance not following; one night himselfe imparting his purpose to two captaines onely, went out at ten of clocke in the night, (the prince

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prince elect; Tricke, the Erie of Essex, and the L. North
being with him) and gave order for a present surprise of
it, which he happily succeeded; that the place and fort
were suddenly taken, the men within, thus as they taken
prisoners, some slain, the rest fled, or were drowned in
the water, and not a man of ours lost or hurt. Now to
keepe this place was great danger, and some would needs
perswade to have it left. His Excellencie would not so,
but fell smartly in hand to intrenching, and haunting
made it defendible, he then abandoned the former seat of
campe, and brought the bridge downe to this Island, and
the whole campe nearer the fort, now intenc seriously
attending by all militarie arts and devices to win them.
The hope of all our leaders both English and others,
was small for the obtaining of these forts: They
were so strong and well provided ererie way, and our
meanes scant sufficient for so great an exploit. But his
Excellencies owne selfe contrary to all and every their
advises persisted in his intent most constantly, and would
not heare any thing that might tend to dissuade him
from this purpose: and as intenc about a weeke of his
owne; and of the commendation whereof very little
can be desired to any others, he most diligently and daun-
gerously attended alwaies in person both daylie and
late, and put his owne hand almost to every particular
service of it, fortresses were built, trenches were drawne,
thirmites made on both sides, and nothing for offence, or
defence omitted on either side, that militarie skill, in like
case, could execute or invent, till on the fourth of Octo-
ber, the prince having bene advertised by Taxis that the
Islande was taken, and that our workes began to grow
perillous to the forts, came in person to Zuyder with
his whole campe, with intent as we could gather, to at-
tempt our trenches in the Islande on the same side. He
came the fourth of October at night, and on the next day

A report of the situation

after, that certainly expected he should haue assailed the
 yalandes the which he had great opportunity: blamable
 with in camp he might come in the face of the east and
 south side, for a fair plain capable of his army under the
 town wall: the towers on the north east bearing on it with
 their great and small shot, & having a gate for sale with in
 available shot: the wall forte between the town and the
 water: having his neillate bent on it the great fort with
 his ordnance ready to play on the north side, and the sea
 the side some what nearer with small shot and ordnance
 most ready, so that sailing on the west and south side they
 had compassed it round. But his Excellencie on the Tuesday
 at night, he might long he planted his ordnance to
 beate up on the princes charge if it came: and having re-
 plenished the trenches with store of men, was sufficiently
 provided for him. On the Wednesday morning the six of
 October, we sawe of the princes troups of horse and foot
 ranging by & solons, a mile or any more: but having left
 some victuals and store of men in the town, and nothing
 nothing of the side of the trenches, he departed that night
 two English miles back, which alone as his Excellencie
 under stood, the same Wednesday at night he planted his
 ordnance both in the yaland, & on the other side the town
 straight in the middle way. On the Thursday morning he
 had sent up the little battlement fort on both sides, till the
 of the clock in the afternoon, & then took it by assault ga-
 ning with 60 soldiers in the face of the great fort with
 eight hundred soldiers, and of the town where Tule
 their land with about 1000 men in hearing of sound of
 the pipes, and his whole camp having bene in, and had
 the said towers, and now not to be empty in the face of it. His
 Excellencie was all the time of this battle, and assaile
 in the trenches in the yaland on the towne side, and the
 assault was made his side in handery with the expecting a
 assault from the town in that party, but did not come to any
 assault

in the lowd Countie A

assault by Sir Edward Stanley first knight to Edward III
 W. Stanley, captain of one of his banners, being appointed
 the first to the assault, because himself most valiant
 he was with his banner the principal cause of this great
 happy success, to whom his Excellencie bestowing made
 him therefore presently knight in the franchises, gave him
 forty pounds sterling in gold, and sent him the next day
 a patent of one hundred marks sterling by year during the
 life of the said Sir Edward, giving his Excellencie ston
 labours in England for the due payment thereof, took in
 most honourable report of this his sad contention in the pa
 tent. Was lost about eight men in this assault and not a
 horse. His Excellencie appointed the next day for the ap
 proching the great fort. But that night did all the cap
 taines and soldiers within abandon it, leaving behind
 them their ordnance, and escaped over the water to the
 towne where Taxis was faine to receive them. Where
 were taken from the entrance by our men during this
 siege two fortresses, which the enemy has lately erected
 about the towne, and a castle called *Almshouse* his
 Excellencie himself in person took in, four english miles
 in the *Wallow* from this place, besides the castle of *Boxberger*
 near *Deventer*, which we took also a little before this
 time. Great toiles were made in all the united provinces
 for the recovery of these fortres. The whole countie
 of the *Wallow* about twelve english miles in breadth, and al
 much in length, being thereby fully cleared: and no less
 was the enemy counted, finding how lost his whole for
 tification in that countie: and Taxis the governor having to
 ken from him a great number of toiles, the contributions
 of this countie were by Sir *Philip de Burgh* and Sir *John*
 paid him upon the departure of the prince from *Brabant*
 by his Excellencie dispatched *Gerard de William*
Rodriguez de Rogo Williams, who had been before
 to the towne of *Brabant*, and to deliver his march, who found
 him

A report of the service.

him on the Friday at night the next day after the assault
was given, about *Berck*, eight or ten english miles
from our campe, where they gave alarme to his whole
campe, sent in his footes and corpele garde, but not a
man came forth to them. The next day the prince mar-
ched up towards *Rogel*, a house of the Duke of Cleves,
about thre or foure english miles from *Wesfel*, where he
lay creased as the harde of an agne, and dispersed his
campe about in the villages adjoining, then to which time
till his returne to *Brussel*, he harde nothing of him. His
Excellencie after he had so honorably, and with so small
losse in so short time, take these foote, thought before very
hard to be won: having deliuered *Berck* also, which was
the principall intent of his first marching, and Sir Martin
Skenele with diuers of our english, being come from
thence to his campe at *Zarpen* to him: seeing his Al-
maines and Meyters came not: and finding the enimie
quietly gone, having nothing else to do in felds, and the
time of yere far spent, being about the midst of October,
determined by aduise of his counsaile, to give order for
garde and defence of the fortres, and to withdrawe his
soldiers from the *Islande*, and other places, and so to dis-
misse his army. Which things the better to effect himself
with the chiefe of his counsaile went to *Dennert*: min-
ding first to assay the garrisoning of that place, being a
matter of great importance. But being called away from
thence to *Arnhem*, where Sir Phillip Sidney then late in
great danger: by the death of Sir Phillip retiring himself
with extreme grief and sorrow to *Utrecht*, he gave or-
der before his departure for the garrisoning of *Dennert*,
and changing of the magistrate there to the young squire
of *Colloigne* Truies, Sir William Pelham, and Sir John
Norris, who with some little fur and danger, effected
both accordingly, and left gouernors of the garrison there
Sir William Stanley, with a good number of english and
Irish,

in the lowe Countries. A

With this was in doing at *Denver*, there fell out a great and gallant skirmish at the campe in this sort. Order being given for dismissing the troupes into garrison, first some companies, then others were sent aloate, and now it was thought expedient to abandon the trenches on the other side of the water next *Zaphen*: and so to take up the bridge and come away. First the larger trenches were left, and the men watoone into a small fortification at the bridge end, with intent the next night to take up our bridge also. Which *Taxis* perceiving from the towne, and seeing the small companies remaining on that side, he sallied with about two thousand footemen, passed the first trenches forsaken, and assaulted the small fortification remaining with great valure, himselfe being of the first in person. Our men being taken on the sudden were at the first sine of sine of them slaine: but the rest stood manfully to it, at the pikes end, untill sir William Stanley coming over the bridge from the *Yellowe* side with supply of sine of sine hundred footemen, and lieutenant Nicholas Parker with onely sine horsemen, drove them away even into the towne gate, and slew many of them, and were likely to have entred the towne pell met with them, if the soldiers had not bene staid by their leaders. The next night we left this little fortification also, and took up our bridge, and day by day, as it might conveniently be done, dismissed the whole forces into garrisons.

It may be demanded his Excellencie being now in a good course of prosperous proceeding: the Prince with his campe being gone, the forts taken, and nothing remaining in those quarters but the bare towne of *Zaphen*: why the winning of that was not attempted also? To which this may be answered: The towne is of it selfe of small importance without the forts, onely prohibiting the free passage

A report of the felicitie

passage of the river by it: When in it there strong shall provide of all necessities, and at that time manen with rind of three thousand bearing armes: and the place thought departed further off, not hovering with his armes not above twenty English miles of it, so that the attempt of it should not be but dangerous; the commoditie small. But besides, it remaineth to improve, with our garrisons remaining about it, as it may be well said to be well besieged. In December six English miles at north lies on the river side is sir William Stanley with six hundred footmen, and two hundred horse. In the fort of *Zaphon* on the *Kliffes* side within another shot of the towne at west, is maister Rowland Yorke with eight hundred footmen, and one hundred horse. At *Dunburgh* southward five miles, (and at *Brinkburn* castell some what nearer) upon the banks of *Widdall* is sir John Borroughes with eight hundred footmen, and two hundred horse. The east and southeast quarters are shot by with our garrisons of *Lockham*, *Shoreberg*, *Doercom*: So that they of the garrison of *Zaphon* can not bin out, neither can so much as victuals be brought to them, but by land: and that from twenty or thirtie miles of at least; and through the midst of our garrisons, which will require more force than the Prince can often spare them, and more charge than the value of the towne will counterwaile. But besides our coming away, as long as our campe was benighted, we heard that *Taxis* hath lessened his garrison to the number of two hundred, and put the Burgers out of the towne, meaning to spare victuals, which he hath in small store: for neither did the Prince bring him in much at the times he came thither, neither could we much supply him at our time with any pleasure for want of carrying of *Ballies* there, neither could we lessen his attempt against *Zaphon*. The state of yeactions spent the winter in and about were very great, and our distress came

in the low Countries.

came not, who if they had not disappointed us, all im-
 pediments notwithstanding his Excellencie had proceeded
 further. And last of all it was thought we had done well
 for this yeere: more being indeed most happily achieved,
 than was hoped for: or purposed at our coming forth.
 For the onely intent of the first setting out of this last
 campe was to raise the Siege of *Berck*: yea, or if we could
 have honourably delivred our men that were in it:
 though the tolong were lost, it was thought a sufficient
 piece of service, both by small means against an enimie so
 puissant, & with continuall late victories so greatly este-
 med and feared. But God be thanked, who is the giver of
 victories, and whose power for his praise afflicted appeared
 not obscurely in these actions: *Berck* is cleavelly delivred,
 the English are all come from it: it is left well manned
 and otherwise provided. And if we will summarily note
 all Gods blessings in these militarie services onely shew-
 ed by the ministerie of his Excellencie during the time
 of his government and abode there, it will appeere
 that in those few monethes there have bene taken by
 our men from the enimie about twentie colonies, ca-
 stles, forts, and sconces: that his footemen and his best
 footemen the Spaniards have ben met withall at *Grave*,
 that his horsemen and his best horsemen the Albaneses,
 and Italians, have bene well encountered in the skirmish
 between *Zutphen*: that his strong *Zutphen* forts were tak-
 en by assault, even in the sight almost of himselfe, and of
 his whole campe: that his armie so much redoubted and
 feared, was dravne from *Berck* to *Zutphen*: there abide-
 den, there encountred sundry times, and at length retur-
 ned backe againe & dismissed without saving his forts, or
 doing us any damage, saving the losse of sir Phillip Sid-
 ners. True it is, he hath gotten in this time *Grave*, *Veulde*,
 & *Nijmegen*. But *Grave* by such means, as baron Hemart, the
 governoz by publique iudgement of his owne battell,

A report of the seruice

and commander the Count Hollock, and of al other militarie officers of all nations, lost his head for it. *Veruloe* was yielded by the townefmen whiles the soldiers defended the walls. *Nuyse* was not of the iurisdiction, or territory of the United Provinces, & therefore his Excellencie had not to do with it. But this is true also, that in all these wars and sundrie diversities of accidents and attempts in diuers places, the enimie neuer got one towne, castle, forte, or sconce, wherein any one english soldier was, nor did him one piece of seruice: worth the nothing since his Excellencie came into the felds with this last armie. And let the Estates especially, and the people of the United Provinces acknowledge the goodnes of God in these his lookes, and the great grace and fauor of her Maiestie, in spending and sending to and for them, her money, forces, and most balliant, noble, louing and beloved subiects, by whose seruice it is nowe done for them, that whereas their estate was at his Excellencies first arrivall, so utterly without hope of standing as is shewed at the beginning of my letter: Nowe they are left in god assurance of safetie, religion by a synode being fully established: the ciuill gouernment orderly settled: the militarie discipline well restoyed: their people in god obedience: their frontiers in great hope of maintenance to be continued: their territoire in *Gelders*, *Zutphen*, *Ouerissell*, and *Flaunders* enlarged: their reuenue by a great accression of contribution in *Gelders* and *Ouerissell* increased: their doubtfull friends of *Ouerissell* assured, and their enimie put to that plunge, as he yet hath not bene since his being in those countries. God make them as thankfull to God and hir Maiestie for it as they haue god cause: and to acknowledge it to his Excellencie as his franke and most beuonessfull great seruice for them hath deserued: whom if extremities of sundrie kinde of great crosses: plaine destitution and want almost of all fit meanes: pynate care of his owne
most

in the lowe Countries.

most large expences for the publike: as often dangerous hazard of his person could haue withdrawne from this proceeding, nothing had bene done at this time. But God whom he serueth hath wrought this great worke out of all those difficulties by him, to him be the praise and glory for it. His Excellencie after his campe thus dismissed, and a little time spent at *Viricht* in the publique affaires, departed thence to the *Hage* in *Hollande*: where hauing established perfect order in the ciuill and military governments during his absence, being vpon important causes to returne into England, from *Hage* he passed by *Delph*, *Rotterdam*, *Dort*, *Briell*, and *Vlissing*, where he embarked for England on the 23. of Nouember at night, and on the next night was with her Maiestie at *Richmonde*, of whom he was most graciously received.

Thus haue I ben bold to trouble you with this brieue discourse, wherein if any thing set downe or omitted be not to your contentation, I hope you will consider it hath proceeded by your owne earnest vrging from him, who desireth nothing more then to content you, and who but to please you had rather haue shewed his dutifull affection in some other matter. But thus much if it like you so well to interpret of it, may be as it were to giue you a taste in these matters, till some of better skill and more leisure may fully satiffie it with a iust volume, which I wish indeed to be done, the argument will well beare it. And so remaining to do you what further seruice my slender abilitie may asoide I ende. At London the 8. of Ianuarie 1586.

Your worships humble

in all seruice, T. D.